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|  | Document reference | June 2023 |
| | Revision | 3 |
| | Function | Major Projects |



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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Meeting | Beauly Community Liaison Group |
| Date | 13 th June 2023 |
| Time & Venue | 7pm @ Lovat Hotel & Teams |

Beauly CLG Attendees and Apologies:

| Attendees | Representation |
|-------------------|---|
| Cllr David Fraser | Cllr and Chair of Beauly CLG |
| John Stewart | Kilmorack Community Council |
| Steve Byford | Kilmorack Community Council |
| Bill Fraser | Kiltarlity Community Council |
| Graeme MacKay | Kilmorack Community Council |
| Cameron Kemp | Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council |
| Karen Young | Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council |
| Paul Stirling | Strathglass Community Council |
| Humphrey Clarke | Strathglass Community Council |
| Lee Wilson | SSEN Transmission |
| Matthew McKessick | SSEN Transmission |
| Rob Slaughter | SSEN Transmission (Teams) |
| Sally Cooper | SSEN Transmission |
| Simon Johnstone | SSEN Transmission |
| Posy Macrae | SSEN Transmission (Teams) |
| Helen Crawford | Ward 12 Councillor (Teams) |
| Apologies | Position |
| Duncan McCall | SSEN Transmission |
| Simon Hall | SSEN Transmission |
| Duncan Fraser | Kilmorack CC |
| Kelly Scott | SSEN Transmission |

Note of abbreviations;

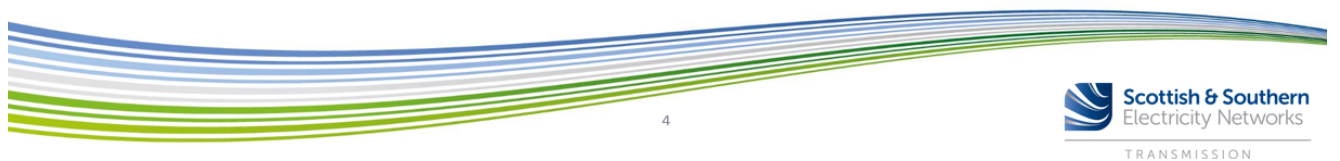
CLG – Community Liaison Group
SSEN T – SSEN Transmission

| 1.0 | Introductions and agenda | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|-----------------|-------|-------------|----|--------------------------------|----|------|----|--|----|------|----|-------------------------------------|----|------|----|--|----|------|
| 1.1 | <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 20px;"> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Introductions and Agenda</h2> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous meeting notes, outstanding actions 2. Updated CLG Terms of Reference to be agreed 3. Project Updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Noise monitoring ii. Beauly 132kV Redevelopment iii. CPNI fencing project iv. West of Beauly – Asset Replacement project 4. The Pathway to 2030 Project Updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. New Beauly substation/converter station ii. <u>Spittal</u> – Beauly 400kV Reinforcement iii. Beauly – <u>Blackhillock</u> 400kV project iv. Beauly – Denny upgrade/<u>Fasnakyle</u> 5. Electro-magnetic fields & 400kV OHL's and Security 6. Issues arising - SSEN Transmission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community 7. AOB and next meeting date <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.0 | <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <h2 style="color: #003366;">Previous Meeting Notes</h2> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #A0C4E8;"> <th style="text-align: center;">Number</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Action / Update</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Owner</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Open/Closed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr style="background-color: #C8E6C9;"> <td style="text-align: center;">1.</td> <td>Noise monitors and latest data</td> <td style="text-align: center;">RS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Open</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #C8E6C9;"> <td style="text-align: center;">2.</td> <td>To request that The Council Environmental Health Team ensure community involvement in the 2023 noise review.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">DF</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Open</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #C8E6C9;"> <td style="text-align: center;">3.</td> <td>Invite SSER to Feb 2023 CLG meeting</td> <td style="text-align: center;">LW</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Open</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #C8E6C9;"> <td style="text-align: center;">4.</td> <td>Update on community benefit when available</td> <td style="text-align: center;">SC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Open</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div> | Number | Action / Update | Owner | Open/Closed | 1. | Noise monitors and latest data | RS | Open | 2. | To request that The Council Environmental Health Team ensure community involvement in the 2023 noise review. | DF | Open | 3. | Invite SSER to Feb 2023 CLG meeting | LW | Open | 4. | Update on community benefit when available | SC | Open |
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| 1. | Noise monitors and latest data | RS | Open | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | To request that The Council Environmental Health Team ensure community involvement in the 2023 noise review. | DF | Open | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Invite SSER to Feb 2023 CLG meeting | LW | Open | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Update on community benefit when available | SC | Open | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | <p>The CLG were informed about SSEN T's community benefit consultation period starting at the beginning of July and it was requested that the time period for this is extended from 1 month to 6 weeks. SSEN Transmission suggested that the Economic Development Manager attend the next CLG meeting. Link to information to the fund which closes 13th August is as follows.</p> <p>Community Benefit Fund - SSEN Transmission (ssen-transmission.co.uk)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3.0

The CLG and Terms of Reference

- The CLG has been expanded to include Strathglass CC and Kirkhill & Bunchrew CC due to the suite of Pathway to 2030 projects and the effect on communities in the wider area.
- Updated Terms of Reference have been agreed with the Chair and will be circulated to the CLG members.



3.1

Some of the CLG members expressed their discomfort with the `sharing of confidential information` sentence and everyone agreed that this will be removed. **Revised Terms have been circulated to the CLG with the Meeting Notes.**

4

Project Updates

- Noise Monitoring at the substation
- Beauly 132kV Redevelopment latest
- CPNI Fencing
- West of Beauly Asset Replacement/Glen Strathfarrar



4.1

Noise Monitoring

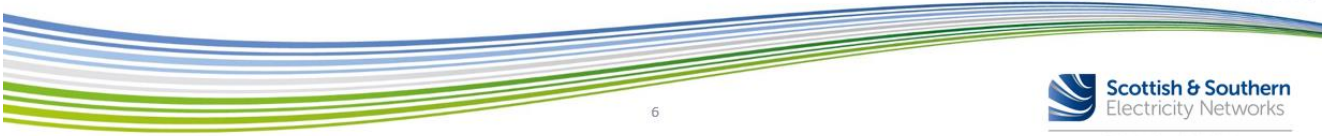
A couple of days after the last CLG (11th April), the noise monitor and weather station were installed on the roof of the old Control Building, near the entrance to site.

Bureau Veritas will need to return every three months or so to confirm calibration, with the monitor remaining in place for a minimum of 12 months as agreed.

SSE received report covering first five week period from BV, which records the levels and show clear diurnal variation, likely associated with traffic from the nearby road.

Copy of report has been sent to THC Environmental Health for information.

Report for second month expected soon.



6

SSEN T reported that no further questions or feedback has been received from The Highland Council after their review of the first noise report. Some of the CLG informed of hearing louder than usual noise between 9th-11th June and asked about direction of the microphone and requested information around noise frequency along with the volume to find out the source. **SSEN T agreed to discuss with Bureau Veritas to find out the possibility of identifying the frequency** and went on to explain that the monitor will record ambient noise including the weather and traffic etc in the general area. The Chair confirmed that this year of noise monitoring is about gathering data and creating a baseline which the graph will help to explain.

5.0

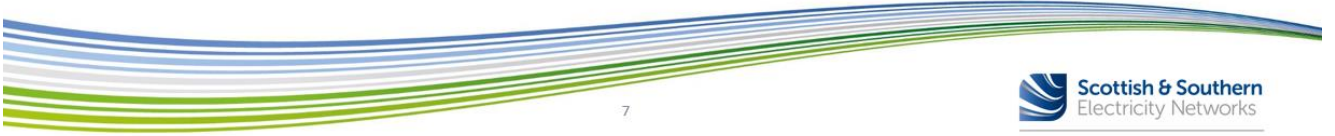
Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project

Progress

- Building foundations and lower floors completed.
- GIS building structural steel work sitting at 90% complete, awaiting delivery of the external cladding.
- Main compound set-up nearing completion.
- Pole erected for SID sign along with additional 40mph repeater signs.
- Positive engagement with Beauly Primary School



Look Ahead – Building internal fit-out to commence once the cladding has been fitted.



7

5.1

-SSEN T Project Manager informed that the GIS frame is now 100% complete and the next stage is cladding and internal works.
-SSEN T have met with the Head Teacher of Beauly Primary School and are looking forward to supporting the school with a few of their projects.

-CLG asked about the use of SF6 gas, SSEN T informed that a different insulating gas is being used from Siemens which is SF6-free. It is composed of nitrogen and oxygen and the cleanest one currently available. SSEN T added that our own Policy is generally not to use SF6. If SF6 has to be used e.g. with higher voltages, then SF6 might be the only option and internal authorisation would be required to agree its use. SSEN T informed that the UK are leaders in use of `clean air` gas and we will be the first to use non-SF6 globally for 400kV.

-Regarding the 400kV area at Wester Balblair the CLG asked whether the large number of busbars installed are for future developments. SSEN T informed that it is possible to future-proof only up to a point as generator/developer agreements may change and added that clearance requirements are in place for access.

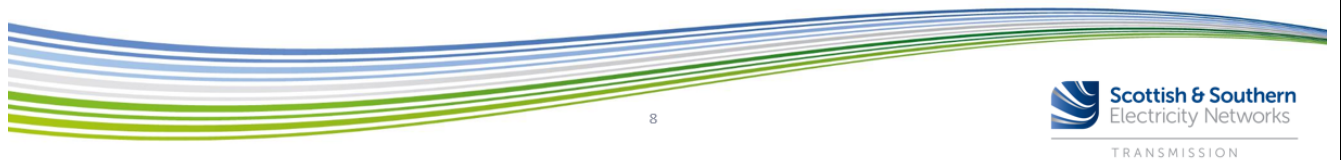
-SSEN T informed the Community that the footprint for GIS is not much smaller than AIS footprint these days.

- As part of the current construction works, the flight of stairs leading to the access track are closed during this time. The CLG suggested closing these stairs off more securely.

6

CPNI Fencing Alarms and CCTV Project

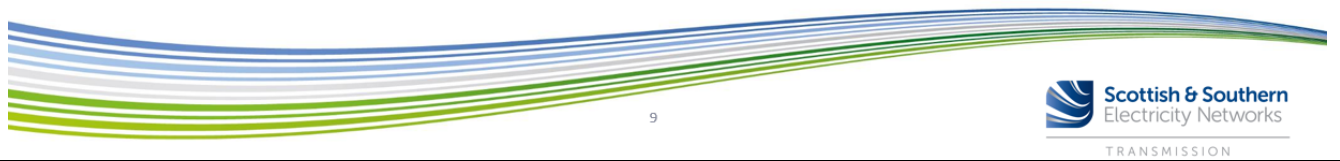
- All construction complete
- Commissioning complete and system is `live`.
- Site is demobilised with only some very minor snagging on the gates to be done.
- Thanks for your patience during the project.



7

West of Beaully – Asset Replacement Projects (including VISTA Glen Strathfarrar)

- Borehole monitoring complete.
- Ongoing environmental surveys commenced at all sites
- Baseline noise monitoring for closest residential properties completed. An alternative site under consideration for Aigas – site selection to be concluded and will be shared.
- West of Beaully – Asset Replacement Projects - 3rd consultation event to take place late Summer 2023.
- Glen Strathfarrar VISTA – Public consultation event due to take place in Summer 2023



7.1

-SSEN T informed the CLG that site selection document for the Aigas and Kilmorack sites will be completed soon and the CLG will be informed of preferred sites.
 -VISTA Glen Strathfarrar – part of the Ofgem qualifying scheme, the project plans to underground 13 spans of OHL and letters from the community councils will be requested to help carry support for the project.
 -The Community asked about the extent of disruption of undergrounding 132kV and SSEN T will pass on the details from a previous VISTA project.

8

Pathway to 2030 Project updates

- New Beaully area Substation/Converter Station
- Spittal – Loch Buidhe – Beaully 400kV OHL
- Beaully – Blackhillock 400kV
- Beaully-Denny circuit upgrade

Reminder: The March consultation events were *initial early consultations* to introduce, explain and gather feedback on our initial proposals for the New substation/converter station and the Spittal – Beaully OHL project. Further consultation events will follow and statutory consultation will take place next year. These will be carried out to show how the 4 proposed projects interface holistically in the Beaully area.



New Beauly Substation and Converter station

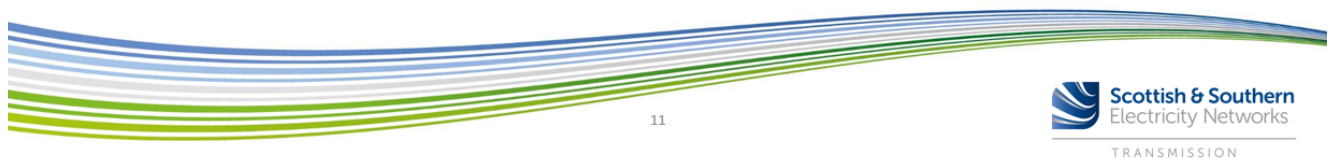
Assessments are still to be concluded in the Quarry next to the substation. Hope to have a conclusion of site selection at the next CLG.

Activities completed since last CLG:

- Breeding Bird surveys started
- Ground Investigations tender
- Design Consultant tender
- Review of the Consultation feedback
- Review of alternative options near quarry – complex considerations that we are still working through

Next Steps:

- Site Selection conclusion
- Feedback to community and Stat consultees on site selection
- Report on Consultation to be issued
- Continuation of ecology/ bird surveys
- Ground Investigations
- Baseline noise monitoring
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders
- Design development



9.1

-SSEN T informed that site selection will be concluded in the coming months once final assessments and investigations are concluded.

-A member of the CLG stated that, amongst the many people who had spoken to him since SSEN’s 2nd March event, every single person considers the proposal to site a new substation at Fanellan to be completely unacceptable. He further explained that people consider Fanellan to be a completely inappropriate location for what is proposed, and because – if sited there – the new substation would constitute an obtrusive industrial complex visible from miles around.

-The CLG informed that there is the opportunity of 1 more phase of quarrying at the Quarry (at Wester Balblair) over the next 3 years, SSEN T explained that the Quarry is getting properly assessed and acknowledged the social-economic impact and lifespan which will be implemented into the site selection scoring criteria.

-Following the Cannich and Daviot wildfires the CLG asked about SSEN T long term battery storage plans, -The CLG asked why the HVDC is required at Loch Buidhe, which wind farm sites are approved along the line and who is going to be connected - Scotland-wide and asked for indication of onshore and off-shore future developments.

-The Community asked what storage is required for the number of gigawatts, who decides is battery storage is needed? **Action to feedback on these points**

10

Spittal– Loch Buidhe – Beauly 400kV Reinforcement

- Themes of feedback and lessons learned are currently being assessed.
- A programme of further engagement with local community councils and elected members, community members, residents associations and working groups have been taking place.

Next Steps in overhead line development:

- Report on Consultation (detailed)
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders
- Confirmation of overhead line route
- Further surveys and investigations
- Identification of alignment options

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TRANSMISSION

10.1

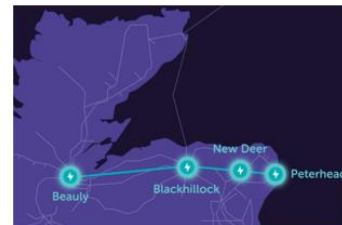
-The CLG questioned the Need (CLG were referred to [ESO publishes Pathway to 2030 – major step to deliver 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 | ESO \(nationalgrideso.com\)](#) and stated that it shouldn't be about the lowest cost options and said they wish to hold discussions with Ofgem. The CLG said the message is the projects need to be stopped, nobody is supporting them.

-The CLG would like to move discussions forward about what is needed to get the best mutually acceptable outcome.

11

Beauly – Blackhillock – New Deer – Peterhead 400kV

- Routing consultation took place:
Phipps Hall - Thursday 27th April 12-7pm
- This was specific to the OHL route options but info on the proposed Substation/converter station site and Spittal to Beauly line were available and reshared to provide the holistic plans.
- Consultation period ended 9 June 2023. Feedback is being reviewed to identify key themes and inform next steps.



Next Steps ahead of overhead line alignment consultations:

- Consultation Summary (high level)
- Report on Route Consultation (detailed)
- Further engagement with stakeholders
- Confirmation of preferred OHL route
- Further surveys and investigations
- Identification of alignment options within proposed OHL route

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TRANSMISSION

11.1

The CLG repeated the projects should be stopped and remarked that up to date maps weren't used at the consultation event.

Responding to post meeting CLG question around how SSEN T are going to remove the overwhelming community concerns, i.e justification of the need for this infrastructure.

SSEN T responded– an Action around need has not been omitted, the Action was raised and this link was sent in the earlier version of the Meeting Notes and explains the need [ESO publishes Pathway to 2030 – major step to deliver 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 | ESO \(nationalgrideso.com\)](#) and further information can also be obtained from here [Decision on accelerating onshore electricity transmission investment | Ofgem.](#)

The Meeting Notes from April 2023 shared previously with the Group also provided detailed explanation about Need. As explained below SSEN T are keen to work with communities throughout the development process so that impacts can be mitigated where possible.

12

Beauly– Denny 2nd Circuit Upgrade

Scope of project

-Upgrade to the second circuit on the existing Beauly- Denny overhead line (OHL) from 275kV to 400kV. This will accommodate new renewable energy generators connecting to the transmission network in the future.

-On completion, both circuits will operate at 400kV. The Beauly-Denny OHL was constructed for 400kV operation on each of its two circuits but put into service with one operating at the lower voltage of 275kV. This means no alterations to the OHL are required to upgrade it to 400kV.

This upgrade also drives the requirement for a new, additional substation near [Fasnakyle \(south-west of Inverness\)](#) and also at Braco (north-east of Dunblane) to accommodate the 400kV equipment, including modifications to other substations along the route, including: [Fort Augustus](#), [Errochty](#), [Kinardochy](#) and Tummel.

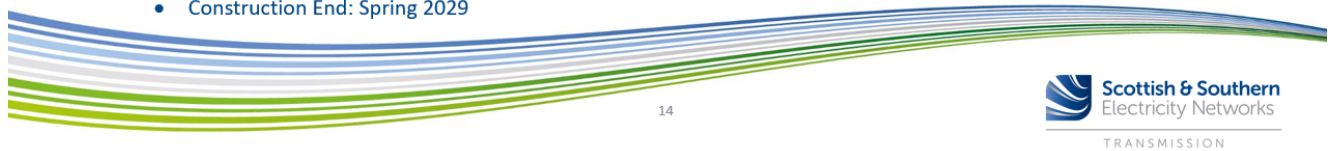
Programme dates

- Public Consultation ([Fasnakyle](#) substation): Summer/Autumn 2023
- Public Consultation 2nd & 3rd event: Spring 2024
- Planning Application submitted: Spring- Summer 2024
- Construction start: Summer 2026
- Construction End: Spring 2029



Project Update

We are **expanding the search area of our site selection process** due to the challenges and constraints we are facing in finding a suitable site at [Fasnakyle](#).



14

 **Scottish & Southern**
Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

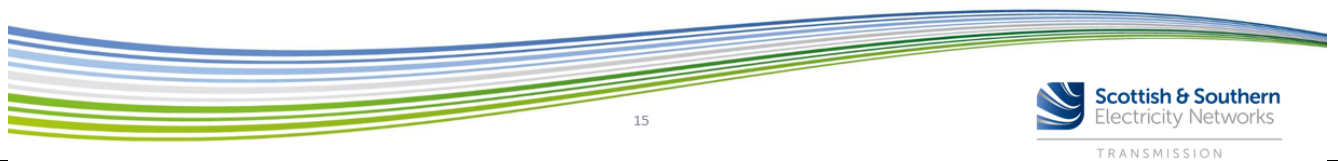
12.1

-The CLG would like to understand the area of land required for the new Fasnakyle substation.
-CLG requested clarification, as they understood from the Cannich wildfire which went very close to OHL, that carrying out fire fighting by these structures became more dangerous because of increased conductivity from smoke and steam.

Action to feedback

Electro-magnetic Fields

- The UK Government sets guidelines for exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) in the UK on advice from Public Health England (PHE). We comply with the relevant codes of practice to minimise EMF when building or maintaining our assets and pool our experience and knowledge with other network operators through the Energy Networks Association EMF Steering Group. **E**
- **EMF The Facts booklet has been produced and will be shared with the Group.**
- In March 2004 the UK adopted the 1998 guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines are designed to set conservative exposure levels for the general public to electric and magnetic fields, and they are endorsed by the UK's Health Protection Agency, the World Health Organisation and the UK Government.
- It is the policy of the electricity industry to follow these independent guidelines. A Code of Practice, published jointly in 2012 by industry and the then Department for Energy and Climate Change (now part of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy), sets out all the practical details needed to apply the exposure limits for transmission lines. All exposures in homes already comply with the ICNIRP guidelines. The electricity industry designs all new equipment to comply with the Government guidelines as set out in the Code of Practice. This includes measures such as adhering to statutory ground clearance requirements and ensuring optimum phasing of high voltage double-circuit overhead lines.
- **Further information on EMFs can be found from National Grid's information site on EMFs (www.emfs.info).**



13.1 **EMF the Facts booklet shared with these meeting notes.**

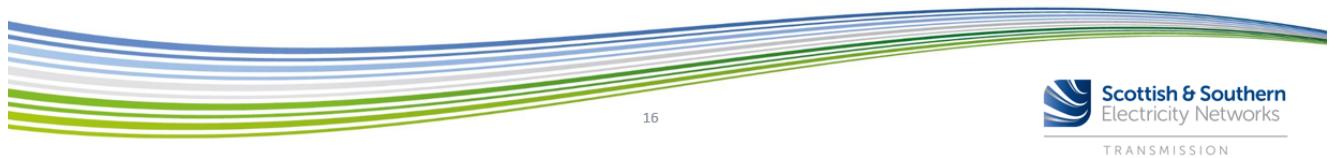
Security of Overhead lines and Substations

As part of our obligations, SSEN T must take appropriate steps to consider security of our assets, including compliance with the requirements of the Electricity Safety, Quality & Continuity Regulations 2002 (usually abbreviated to ESQCR).

Threats to the national infrastructure are governed strictly and SSE complies with all of the obligations placed upon us and for obvious reasons is unable to share this information.

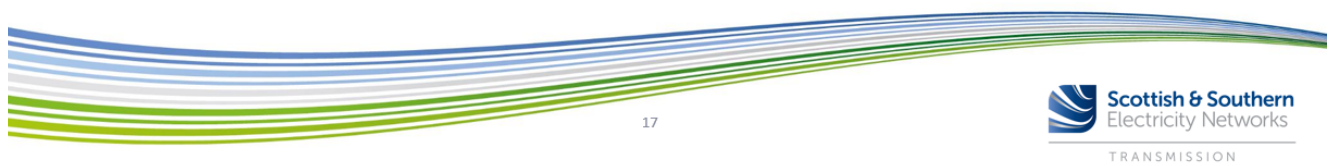
- SSE own and operate an NSI (National Security Inspectorate) approved Security Bureau where a variety of CCTV and Alarms are monitored 24/7/365. The security strategy deployed by the team covers a variety of threats from casual intrusion through determined adversaries.
- From a security perspective there is no significant advantage to power lines being buried as opposed to overhead. In a similar scenario described to those witnessed in Ukraine, i.e a catastrophic attack, both overhead and underground methodologies are susceptible to attack.
- In circumstances of catastrophic attack, the UK Government is responsible for the protection of our airspace and has the technology and defence capabilities to act.

There are limitations on what information can be shared publicly in regard to security and resilience.



Community Experience Since Last Meeting

Beauly Community to comment



15.1

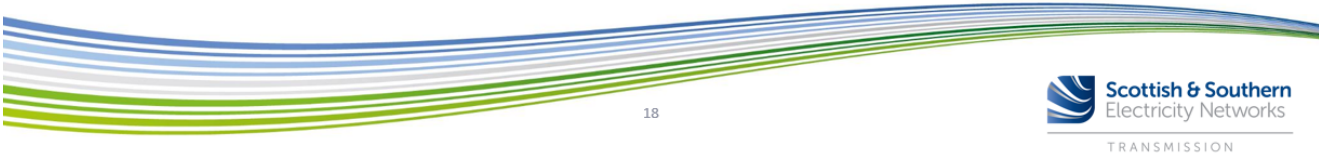
-The CLG commented that with SSEN T obligated to provide infrastructure they don't believe this should be provided at lower cost and should be discussed with Ofgem, the proposals are not what the Community want. SSEN T explained that with underground cable technology there is potentially more associated infrastructure such as substations and sealing end compounds which provide additional visual impact.

-The Community stated they believe communities should receive higher considerations and they plan to collectively draw up a list of specific questions. SSEN T explained that a detailed Q&A sheet is currently being compiled and is nearing completion, they advised to read this ahead of submitting questions.

-The submitted complaint against SSEN T land manager was discussed. **Response has been issued to Kilmorack CC and Ward Councillors. The complaint has been investigated in full and communications between the land manager and land owner were logged at the time. There is no evidence to support the complaint.**

- **SSEN T post meeting response below to the CLG comments 10.1 and 15.1 when asked post meeting by the CLG as to how SSEN T plan to remove the overwhelming community concerns.**

SSEN Transmission do not underestimate the communities overwhelming concerns with these proposed projects. There will be impacts and SSEN T are keen to engage and work together with communities to mitigate these as much as and where possible. This process began with the first consultation events earlier this year and this engagement is ongoing. As shown and discussed in the presentations there will be ongoing stakeholder meetings, CLG meetings and consultation events to discuss, share information and gather feedback, where communities' concerns can be addressed and discussed. As you'll recall the CLG were invited to Perth some months back to meet with some of the Transmission senior team to have two-way discussion around the projects, the invitation was declined. It was reiterated at the following CLG meeting that this invitation remains 'Open'. If the Group prefers this can be arranged in the Inverness/Beauly area. We welcome any other suggestions the CLG may have in addressing communities' concerns in general or specifically. We continue to endeavour to work with communities through this process to address concerns.

| | |
|------|---|
| 16 | <h2 style="text-align: center;">Issues Arising?</h2> <p>SSEN Transmission: An open invitation remains to the CLG to meet with senior members of Transmission to discuss these projects in more detail. Inverness as a venue?</p> <p>Community:</p>  |
| 16.1 | <p>The CLG said going forward they would like to see changes in the proposals to show how feedback/comments have been implemented into the project designs. Actions – This will be provided during the consultation process</p> |

Date of next meeting Tuesday 29th August 7pm-9pm

Actions

| Number | Action / Update | Owner | Open/Closed |
|--------|--|-------|----------------|
| 1. | Re - Sent revised Terms of Reference to all members of CLG along with the Meeting Notes | SC | CLOSED |
| 2 | Noise monitor frequencies/graph to be shared at August meeting. | RS | OPEN |
| 3 | Provide update on Community Benefit once this is available | RH | OPEN |
| 4. | Requested what questions/information required from SSER representative re the Asset Replacement projects, re invite to the next meeting. | CLG | Open |
| 5. | To ensure Environmental Health inform the Community at the 2023 noise review | DF | OPEN long term |
| 6. | Information re extent of disruption from VISTA Killen, | LW | OPEN |
| 7 | CLG asked about long-term battery storage plans, with high levels of GW planned to be connected what level of storage is needed? | SC | OPEN |
| 8 | Update CLG on site selection for Asset Replacement projects at Aigas and Kilmorack | LW/FW | OPEN |
| 9 | CLG asked why HVDC required at Loch Buidhe, what windfarm sites are approved and who is going to be connected? | SC | CLOSED |